

REMARKS

Claims 1, 13-18, and 22-24 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. The text of claims 2-12, 9-21, and 26-35 is unchanged, but their meaning is changed because they depend from amended claims.

Claims 1, 13-18, and 22-24 have been amended to include limitations involving matching accounting start-stop event data for said user with said network flow data. Support for these amendments may be found in the specification, on page 15, lines 7-12.

No new matter has been introduced into any of the claims.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-24 and 26-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being allegedly unpatentable over Reeder (U.S. Patent No. 5,852,812) in view of McCreery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,787,253). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Neither Reeder nor McCreery foresee combining network flow data with accounting start-stop event data in any way. Thus, there is no motivation to combine the two references. Reeder involves an invention which records accounting start-stop event data. This type of action is performed at what is normally termed an accounting server, which is a server coupled to (or a part of) an authentication server used to authenticate a user when he logs into the network. Reeder merely describes a specific implementation of what is a common method for using data recorded by the accounting server for billing purposes.

McReery involves an invention which records network data flow. The data flow in McReery is only anticipated for use in analyzing generic Internet activity. As McReery states in column 2, lines 36-38, "[t]he translated data provides high level information regarding the transactions between nodes which is used to monitor or compile statistics regarding the transactions between nodes which is used to monitor or compile statistics regarding network or internetwork activity". Since McReery is only concerned with high level information, there is no anticipation of providing any mechanism to combine the network flow data with accounting start-stop data, or how such a combination could be accomplished. Additionally, the invention in McReery involves coupling a network flow analyzer directly to a network segment where normal packets flow (i.e. between a router and another router). However, there is generally no direct communication between routers and accounting servers. Such communications are not known in the relevant art because, until now, there has been no reason for a router to directly communicate with an accounting server.

Additionally, neither Reeder nor McReery anticipate "correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record unique to said user by matching said accounting start-stop event data associated with said user with said network flow data associated with said user.". The claims have been amended to make this distinction more apparent.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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